not be in the commercial interests of the contracting parties to disclose specific details of the contracts/agreements. Since the discussions were held purely on commercial basis, no assistance was expected from the foreign parties. However, the visits of these delegations are expected to improve the customer/business relationships with the overseas trading partners.

Coke Oven-Battery Project in VSP

2636. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has decided to commission Coke Oven-Battery in the plant, to keep the plant running throughout the year;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has entered into a tie-up with any company for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed fourth Coke Oven-Battery will be similar in design and capacity to the existing three batteries at VSP with some additional improved features. The Coke Oven-Battery shall have 7m, tall 67 number ovens of 41.6 cum useful volume. A coke dry cooling plant will be provided. The fixed cost of the project is estimated to be Rs. 287 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Categorisation of NMDC

†2637. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to impart the status of Nav Ratna to National Mineral Development Corporation, by bringing it out from the category of Mini-Ratna, is under Government's consideration;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.